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LETTER DATED 26 FEBRUARY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GEORGIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued on 26 February 1997 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia concerning the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia.

May I ask your kind assistance in circulating the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. Peter CHKHEIDZE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

97-05135 (E) 270297

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Annex

Statement issued on 26 February 1997 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia concerning the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia expresses its deep concern at the growing number of terrorist acts and increasing violence in Abkhazia, Georgia.

This dangerous tendency has long been a major stumbling block to the normal functioning of international observers in the Gali region and has caused serious casualties among the peacekeepers and the civilian population.

One more terrorist act was carried out in the Gali region on 22 February 1997, in which a nurse and two soldiers of the collective peacekeeping forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States were killed.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia offers its sincere condolences to the families of the victims, who lost their lives in the honourable service to the international community.

The truth about the ongoing terrorist acts aimed against peaceful civilians and international observers cannot, and will not, be veiled in mystery.

It is obvious that these provocative acts are being carried out in an attempt to shatter the world's belief in the policy pursued by the Government of Georgia and to challenge Georgia's commitment to the peace process as a whole.

Our position in this regard is clear and was once again reflected in the presidential decree of 1 February 1997 (see S/1997/117) on the undelayed implementation of the necessary measures pursuant to Security Council resolution 1096 (1996) of 30 January 1997, according to which the Government of Georgia will continue to employ all resources, within its capacity, to ensure the safety of international observers and to contribute fully to the comprehensive settlement of the dispute.